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Economic Commission for Latin America

Second Latin American Seminar on Horizontal  
Co-operation for the International Drinking  
Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note

ORGANIZING BODY: This seminar is being organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America.

ENQUIRIES: For further information, please write to:  
Division of Natural Resources,  
Water Resources Unit,  
Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL),  
Casilla 179-D,  
Santiago, Chile  
Telephone: 485051 - extension 219  
Cables: UNATIONS Santiago, Chile  
Telex: 352 295 (Transradio)  
352 1054 (ITF)  
352 40077 (TELESTAD)

### I. Background

The CEPAL Committee which considered the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the Commission's eighteenth session requested the CEPAL Secretariat to participate in activities undertaken by WHO/PAHO with a view to concerting the efforts of the countries of the region to implement the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade through various measures including "the convening to special meetings of representatives of national and international agencies".1/

Earlier, at the Latin American regional meeting on the Action Plan of the United Nations Water Conference (Santiago, 9-13 October 1978), Governments of the region were requested to "promote the holding of periodic meetings of representatives of their respective national institutions with a view to exchanging experience on progress made in drinking water supply and sanitation plans".2/

The designation of the Decade of the 1980s as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade provides a good opportunity for considering strategies to favour water supply and sanitation, particularly from the financial standpoint but also within the broader sphere of those strategies' contribution to the economic and social development process.

In order to review strategies applied earlier, it seemed necessary to begin by sharing experience in order to gain a fuller, more detailed knowledge of the successes and failures, with a view to increasing the general level of mutual understanding of the region's problems. The organization of this seminar as a Latin American forum to study specific economic and social aspects of drinking water supply and sanitation programmes will provide very useful machinery at a time when a

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1/ See document E/CEPAL/1083/Rev.1, Vol. I, para. 485.

2/ See document E/CEPAL/1056, Resolution II.

large-scale international effort is being launched in this field, particularly if it is also used as a means for programming mutual assistance among countries of the region.

## II. Objectives

### 1. General objectives

To encourage horizontal co-operation among Latin American and Caribbean countries and institutions as a strategy for attaining the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, with special emphasis on social, economic and financial aspects.

### 2. Specific objectives

(a) To identify the main questions which the countries or institutions will have to tackle in order to implement the objectives and targets relating to the Decade, and which may be approached through systems of horizontal co-operation;

(b) To identify and define the forms and machinery of horizontal co-operation considered most appropriate in the sector, as means for achieving the objectives and targets of the Decade; and

(c) To formulate specific project proposals for developing horizontal co-operation in the field of drinking water supply and sanitation in connexion with the Decade.

## III. Participants

The meeting will be attended by officials and specialists of Governments or public enterprises in the following two categories:

(a) Managers and high-level officials of government bodies responsible for managing, advising or supporting the drinking water supply and sanitation sector, and

(b) Managers and high-level officials of drinking water supply and sanitation enterprises responsible for executive, advisory or support functions in their entities.

/Participants will

Participants will be invited to submit a document of about five pages on the situation in their own country, which will serve as a basis for a presentation in which each speaker should refer to the following aspects:

(a) Progress made in organization, plans and targets in connexion with the Decade in his country;

(b) Experience acquired in mutual co-operation among countries or agencies in the drinking water supply and sanitation sector;

(c) Questions considered by the country or entity in question to be most important from the standpoint of the implementation of the targets for the Decade, and which could be tackled in the framework of horizontal co-operation; and

(d) Specific projects - whether offers or requests - proposed in the field of horizontal co-operation.

The meeting will also be attended by representatives of international bodies and specially invited participants.

For practical reasons, two seminars have been organized. The first was convened specifically for the countries of the South American region of Latin America, although other countries of Latin America also participated. The second seminar will be primarily aimed at the Central American and Caribbean countries, but it too is open to the other countries of the region.

#### IV. Annotations to the provisional agenda

##### 1. Election of Officers and adoption of the agenda and of the programme of work

The Seminar will be governed by the CEPAL rules of procedure. The items on the election of Officers and adoption of the agenda of the meeting will be voted upon at the first plenary meeting.

/2. National

2. National activities related to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

The purpose of this item is to establish an overall frame of reference in line with the expected scope of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The Secretariat of the Commission will outline the following aspects:

(a) The objectives, philosophy and targets of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, based on the relevant agreements and mandates;

(b) The restrictions and obstacles generally faced by the various countries and entities in implementing the targets for the Decade, particularly in connexion with social, economic and financial problems; and

(c) The various strategies currently employed to overcome the foregoing restrictions. In this connexion, horizontal co-operation will be singled out as one of the strategies and the possible contributions expected from its use will be outlined.

The participants will be invited to present a summary of the situation at the beginning of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in their country.

3. Horizontal co-operation in the social, economic and financial aspects relating to drinking water supply and sanitation, as a strategy for the implementation of the Decade

The purpose of this item is to identify and specify the forms and operational machinery for horizontal co-operation.

The Secretariat will outline the experience and successes obtained through horizontal co-operation in general.<sup>3/</sup> It will then review more specifically the experience acquired in the field of drinking water supply and sanitation.

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<sup>3/</sup> See Horizontal Co-operation in Support of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, E/CEPAL/L.241, 6 February 1981.

/The following

The following are mentioned as examples of possible forms and machinery:

(a) International and bilateral meetings of delegations of countries or agencies for different co-operation areas.

(b) Exchanges of technical personnel; mutual training; exchange of technology and of experience in the application of standards, and exchange of information among specific institutions on the basis of pre-established thematic areas.

(c) An international association for institutions, the secretariat of which would be rotated between the different national member institutions.

(d) The establishment within one of the existing international organizations of a programme to facilitate horizontal co-operation, possibly in collaboration with other organizations.

(e) The formation of a new international association with a permanent secretariat.

#### Expected results

The analysis of this item is expected to make it possible to identify viable operational machinery for horizontal co-operation in the drinking water supply and sanitation field within the possibilities of interested countries and bodies.

#### 4. Specific horizontal co-operation projects

The purpose of this item is to analyse, formulate and lay the foundations for concrete horizontal co-operation projects relating to the targets for the Decade. To this end, the various areas of interest for co-operation will be related to the operational machinery for such co-operation.

The Secretariat will outline the potential areas for horizontal co-operation on the basis of the experience gained in the different Latin American countries.

/The aim

The aim is to identify and gain a thorough understanding of the needs and capacities of each country and/or entity as regards mutual co-operation in connexion with the Decade, in different fields related to socio-economic aspects such as:

(a) Planning for the Decade. Establishment of objectives and targets, preparation of support programmes and investment projects for plan implementation.

(b) Institutional and administrative aspects. Institutional structures and frameworks, institutional supportive and advisory back-up services, administrative criteria, etc.

(c) Technological aspects. Levels and standards of service, suitable technology, technical standards, project design and implementation, services for concentrated and scattered rural population, peripheral urban population, etc.

(d) Water resources. Water quality, quality standards, protection of water sources, treatment of drinking water and waste water, reutilization of water, suitable technology, water quality monitoring.

(e) Operational and maintenance aspects of drinking water supply and drainage systems. Operational and maintenance programmes, forms of service, logistics, greater efficiency in service and use, financing arrangements, reduction of water losses, etc.

(f) Human resources. Education for health. Training at different levels. Community organization and motivation.

(g) Information systems. Development of national information systems. Data science. Preparation of manuals and techniques.

(h) Internal and external financing. Generation of income according to social and economic criteria, extra resources, community participation, financing arrangements, improvement of commercial systems.

#### Expected result

The analysis of this item should provide guidelines for countries and bodies in the potential areas for horizontal co-operation in connexion with the Decade.